THE STANDARD OF JUDGMENT.

Whatever objections may justly or unjustly be alleged against the President's statement, in his late letter to Col. Hodges, of the ground on which he plants himself in defence of his policy as regards slavery and its relations to the war, none can deny to it the merit of candor. He frankly admits that that policy was "unconstitutional," until, in the order of time and in the progress of events, it became, in his judgment, "indispensable to the preservation of the Constitution through the preservation of the Nation." As soon as it became, in his opinion, "indispensable to the preservation of the Constitution" that he should adopt a measure "otherwise unconstitutional," that measure then became "lawful."

This view of duty, as construed to his own mind by the President, is very instructive in more aspects than one. It appears from it that the President's notions of what is "lawful" under the Constitution are determined by the physical necessities of the war, as those necessities are regarded from the point of view taken by the Executive. Thus the constitutional legitimacy of particular measures, instead of being settled by the text and interpretation of the Constitution, becomes a question depending for its decision on the course of events and the mutable opinions of the Chief Magistrate of the country called to determine the complexion of these events. And this being so, we can readily perceive why the President practises a large toleration, as we know he does, (and in which he sets a good example to some others,) towards those who, in all candor and honesty, do not concur with him in his views of constitutional duty on this point. As the President concedes that, apart from their conceived "necessity," the measures he so reluctantly and hesitatingly adopted were "otherwise unconstitutional," it is obvious that he yields to the opponents of his policy the advantage of being theoretically right, as they were also practically right until he changed his practice. And, as he did not adopt these "otherwise unconstitutional measures" until they seemed to him indispensable, it is equally obvious that, in a matter of human opinion, he concedes to others the same liberty of judgment as to their indispensability which he assumes to himself. He deemed certain measures, "otherwise unconstitutional," to be indispensable to the preservation of the Constitution. Whoever, with the lights before him, is compelled to believe that, so far from the enemy were kept from annoying us while we were at being indispensable to the preservation of the Constitution, they must be fatal to its supremacy, is S. L. Phelps, had done all that man could do to save his bound by the very same rule of duty which the President avows to regard these measures as still "unconstitutional;" for the President, in giving in to them a reluctant and dilatory adhesion, defended them to his own mind only so far as they seemed to be "indispensable." And this view, if sound for no other purpose, is at least valuable for the clear light in which it sets the grounds of the charity extended, as we know, by the President to many men, inside and outside of his party, who do not share his practical any more than his theoretical views in regard to the standard by which the Constitution should be interpreted in the present emergency. That standard, as we understand it, has never been better deficed than in the following words of Senator COLLAMER, for whose respect shared by the whole country:

"If we are constrained to call up, invoke, and put in exercise in any one department of the Government—it is mmaterial in what department of the Government-more of power, more of force than the Constitution provides or limited by the Constitution—the moment we do that, or are constrained from our supposed necessities to do it, we acknowledge before the world that our institu-tions are insufficiently founded, and that we are after all compelled, in the period of trial, to resort to the force which, they say, is necessary to the existence of a nation and our experiment is a failure. We should, therefore, particularly in a period like this, carefully study and sa-It is vain and idle in us to war against a part of our people because they have made war upon the Govwe at the same time have to sap the foundations of the Government by stabbing through the vitals of

THE WAR IN GEORGIA.

A GREAT BATTLE IN PROGRESS.'

WASHINGTON, MAY 10-7 o'clock A. M. To Major Gen. Dix: A despatch from Gen. Sherman, received at midnight, states that we are fighting for the possession of "Rocky Face Ridge," and I have knowledge that McPherson took the Snake Creek Gap, and was within seven miles of Resaca this morning. You will remember that on Saturday the rebels were forced from Tunnel Hill by Gen. Thomas, and took a position at Buzzard's Roost, in a bend of Mill Creek, just north of Dalton. This s represented to be a very strong position, which General Thomas was unable to drive the enemy from on a former occasion, when he advanced on Dalton. But Resaca is a *position on the railroad about fifteen miles south of Dalton, and this will place McPherson with a strong corps of veteran troops in the rear of the enemy, while General Thomas advances upon their front and Gen. Scofield closes in on the flank from Cleveland. It is probable that a great battle was fought on that line yesterday, and may be now in progress. Gen. Joe Johnston commands the rebel

Nothing since my last despatch has been heard from the Army of the Potomac or from Gen. Butler. EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

GENERAL STONE.

From the St. Louis Republican. Gen. Stone certainly has had hard luck. He lay for long time in prison on verbal charges connected with the disaster at Ball's Bluff, but, after months of confinement. was finally released without examination, and ordered to report to Gen. Banks in the Department of the Gulf Recently he has been relieved from his command, [by the War Department, and prior to the late battles,] and has come North resting under an imputation affecting his conduct in the late battles on Red river. We observe, how-ever, that Gen Ransom, who behaved himself with such gallantry in the fight at Sabine Cross Roads, does not

share in any unfavorable opinion of Gen. Stone. The following is a letter written by Gen. R. to the Chicago " Messrs. Editors Chicago Journal : "Messrs. Editors Chicago Journal:

"I notice in your paper of the 7th instant a letter from Grand Ecore, cates April 10th, from your correspondent, signing himse f Hawkeye, who, in speaking of the battle of the 8th, says Gen. Stone, chief of Gen. Banks's staff, was on the field and took direction of the movement, &c. I would state that I received no orders from Gen. Stone on that day, and, as far as I know and believe, he was not responsible for the advance or disposition of the forces engaged. I make this correction as an act of justice to a distinguished and meritorious officer who endeared himself to the Army of the Gulf by his gallant conduct in the battles of the 8th and 9th instants.

Respectfully, yours.

Respectfuly, yours, "T. E. G. RANSOM, Brig. Gen U S. V."

Brigadier General EDWARD R. S. CANBY Was confirmed by the Senate on Saturday last as a Major General of Volunteers, and the same evening set out for the Southwest, under orders to relieve General BANKS of his command

THE RED RIVER FLEET.

Official Account of Rebel Attacks upon it and the blowing up of the Eastport.

MISSISSIPPI SQUADRON, FLAG SHIP CRICKET, Off Alexandria, (La.) April 28, 1864.

Hon. GIDEON WELLES, Secretary of the Navy. Sin: I had the honor to inform you, in my com tion No. 106, of the sinking of the Eastport while proceed ng down to Alexandria, caused by the explosion of a tor pedo under her bottom and near her bow.

On hearing this bad news I proceeded at once to the

essel and found her sunk to the gun-deck, the water over it on one side. I saw that no time was to be lost, and went to Alexandria, in hopes of finding one of our steam pump-boats then due. Lieut. Com. Phelps had already sent a tug down for the same purpose, and as I pass over the falls the pump boat hove in sight and proceed n up. An hour after the other boat came up, and I sent her up also, being confident that the Eastport would now be raised. I had ordered all her guns taken out and all her ammunition transferred to other vessels, which was ne by the time I reached her again, forty-eight hours

after the pump-boats went up.

I was detained a day in Alexandria, making a different disposition of the vessels in the Mississippi, owing to the report of the capture of Fort Pillow by the rebels. I sent ome of the heavy iron clads up there with orders to remain, and also changed the destination of various vessels

in the different rivers. When I returned to the Eastport I found her in a fair way of being afloat, though all the heavy steam-pumps together did not do more than slightly decrease the water. The leak had to be stopped by bulkheading. Lieutenant Commander Phelps went to work vigorously to endeavor to save his vessel, and he was seconded by his officers and crew. I don't think I ever witnessed harder work than performed by the officers and crew of the Eastport, and it seemed to be the determination of all on board that she should not fall into the hands of the enemy if it could be helped. I felt confident that the Eastport would be saved, if time permitted, but I had a faint idea that our army were about to fall back on Alexandria, when it would become necessary to destroy the Eastport, or perhaps lose some other vessels.

On my arrival at Grand Ecore I found that preparations were making to move the army in the direction of Alexandria, and I ordered the large vessels at once below the bars, with orders to proceed slowly to Alexandria-keep-ing with me the lighter draft vessels to cover the land The day after my return to Grand Ecore, orders were

issued for the army to move to Alexandria. The Eastport was not yet affoat, and I thought our chance of saving her very small, unless we were certain of having no enemy t On the 20th of April I went down to the Easport again

and, after informing the commander how matters stood we concluded that it was necessary to run some risks ve wished to save the vessel. She was now slightly rest ng on the bottom on one side, and steam had been raise n her. On the 21st she started, in tow of the pump-boat Champion, No. 5, and with the pump of Champion No. 3 transferred to the Eastport, and connected with her boilers. This arrangement, with the addition of one or two syphon pumps, kept the water out of the fire-room and

I waited at a point eight miles below Grand Ecore, and sent up a gunboat to convoy down all the transports that were left up—this vessel bringing up the rear, towing a at on which were all the Eastport's guns. On the first day the Eastport made twenty miles down the river, but at six o'clock in the evening she grounded, from not being in the channel, and the first of our difficul-

ties commenced in getting her over the bars and other ob structions which abound in this river. It would be impossible to give an adequate idea of th culties of the navigation from the 21st of April up to the 26th, the time when it was no longer considered possi-ble to get the Eastport over the sand-bars and logs, now nereasing, unless time was allowed to remove them, and

The Lieutenant Commander commanding the Eastport vessel, and felt it to be a matter of pride to get her to Alexandria. She had grounded eight times badly, and each time under circumstances where it was very doubt ful if she would come off, but the commander's confidence never deserted him, and I could not help but admire his olness and faith in getting his vessel to Alexandria, when knew there were places to pass below with much less

vater on them.

I determined that I would never leave this vessel to her ate as long as the commander felt a hope of getting her down. He worked with almost superhuman efforts to accomplish the object in view, sleeping apparently neither night or day—every body worked and went through pri-vations of all kinds, and I must say that mentally I never

went through so much anxiety in my life.

On the sixth day of this labor of hauling the Eastport over the bars, and after congratulating ourselves that we had passed every impediment, orders were given to fill up with fence rails for fuel, and we started down stream with the expectation of making at least thirty miles that day. The vessel had already been brought sixty miles on her way, and sixty more would bring her within our lines.

The army though were sixty miles ahead of us, and the report was that the rebels were following in their rear.

also opposing them in front, and we might naturally ex opinions, we are sure, the President entertains a pect when the army arrived safely in Alexandria that the whole power of the enemy would be directed to cutting off my small force of three light drafts, and the Eastport without any guns; indeed we had already received notice hat such were their intentions.

On April 25th I made signal to pass down stream, and that such we

ad scarcely started before the Eastport was hard sground, and this time in a position where even the commander' hopes of relieving her failed. The difficulty here was a want of water, and the bed of the river was filled with logs over which it would be impossible to get the vessels unless we had the time. We tried to lighten her by removing her iron plating, but this we found to be labor beyoud our power—the plates could not be removed in short time—and that plan was abandoned at once.

I had determined to remain by the Eastport until she was safe within our lines, or blown up, to prevent her falling into the hands of the enemy. On two occasions had given the commander preparatory instructions relative destruction, thinking her time had come; but, still hopeful and persistent, he stuck to the work, and deserved

to have met with greater success.

Every effort was made to get the Eastport off from what proved to be her final resting place. The gunboat Fort Hindman (whose commander has worked to save the Eas-port with a zeal I pever saw surpassed) succeeded with her steam capstan in moving her bow, but only enough to get into a worse position right across the channel, with a ed of logs under her, and from that place it seemed that

no human power could move her. The cammander baving admitted there seemed no hope of getting her off unless we had time, and our rear pro-tected, I gave the order to destroy her. One ton of pow-der was placed in her in various positions, she was filled with such combustibles as we could procure, and at 1.45 P. M. April 26th, the Eastport was blown up, Lieut. Com-mander Pheips applying the match, and being the last one to leave the vessel. He had barely time to reach the boat when the Eastport blew up, covering the boat with fragments of wood. Seven different explosions followed, and then the flames burst forth in every direction. The vessel was completely destroyed—as perfect a wreck as ever was made by powder. She remains a troublesome obstruction o block up the channel for some time to come. All stores &c. were removed, and such parts of the machinery ould be made available by the rebels. There was nothing but the iron plates left behind, which finally fell inside the hull. Some fell out board, as the fire burnt away the wood to which they were attached, and will soon disap-

pear under the sands.

I would have brought away every piece of iron had I not been warned that I had overstaid my time. Gangs of guerrillas began to hover on the left bank of the river, and just previous to blowing up the Eastport we were attacked

by a heavy force on the right bank.

This vessel was lying fied to the bank, and I was backing out from the Eastport in the Hindman, to give the former a chance to blow up without injury to any one, The rebels selected this moment to make their attack, and, rising suddenly from the bank, opened on our little squadron with twelve hundred muskets, and then made a rush to board the Cricket. The enemy, however, were properly met and repelled, and the Cricket, dropping out from the bank, opened on them with grape and canaster, and, with a heavy cross-fire from the two other vessels,

the rebels were routed in five minutes.

After this we blew the Eastport up and proceeded down he river. We were not molested until we had gone about twenty miles, at a pointabove Cane river. When rounding the point, the vessels in class order and ready for acon, we descried a party of the enemy with artillery on the right bank, and we immediately opened fire with our bow guns. The enemy immediately returned it with a arge; number of cannon, eighteen in all, every shot of

which struck this vessel. The captain (Acting Master H. H. Gaveing) gave orders to stop the engines for the purpose of fighting the battery, and covering the boats astern—I corrected this mistake and got hesdway on the vessel again, but not soon enough to avoid the pelting shower of shot and shell which the

enemy poured into us, every shot going through and through us, clearing all on decks in a moment. Finding the guns not firing rapidly, I stepped on the gun deck to see what was the matter. I stepped down, the after gun was struck with a shell and disabled, and every man at the gun killed and wounded. At the same mon the crew from the forward gun was swept away by a shell exploding, and the men were wounded in the fire-room, leaving one man to fire up. I made up a gun's crew from the contrabands, who fought the gun to the last moment. Finding that the engine did not move, I went into the engine room and found the chief engineer killed, whose place was soon supplied by an assistant. I then went to the pilot-house, and found that a shot had gone through it and wounded one of the pilots. I took charge of the ves-

sel, and as the battery was a very heavy one, I determined to pass it, which was done under the heaviest fire I ever

I attempted to turn her bead up stream to attack with our two bow guns, the only guns left, but as this was im practicable, I let her drift down around the point and shelled the enemy's batteries in the rear. This disturbed them for a moment, and enabled the light-draft Juliet and pump-boat Champion, lashed together, to escape from un-der the bank where they had drifted. The Juliet had the der the bank where they had dritted. The Juliet had the steam pipe cut and became disabled, having drifted clear from under the guns of the enemy and close into the bank where the guns could not be depressed to reach them, and from whence the Champion towed her in safety, when the Hindman opened her batteries, and this vessel was firing

nto the rear of the enemy's batteries. Seeing that the Hindman did not pass the batteries, the Juliet disabled, and that one of the pump boats had her boiler exploded by a shot, I ran down to a point three or ready to meet me in case of necessity. Unfortunately, I ran on shore a short time after passing the batteries, and remained there three hours, took fire in the mean time from the explosion of some cartridges, the box cental which had been struck by the enemy's shot. It was after dark when I reached the appointed place, where I found the Osage lying opposite a field battery of the enemy, which they had been shelling throughout the day. The Lexington had been hard at work at them, and had been hulled fifteen times, without one man killed. The firing above had ceased, and as the channel was very intrisate. I could not send her up to the assistance of the vessels without danger of her getting aground. I knew that hey were all above the batteries, and was in hopes that the Hindman had silenced them.

Lieut. Com. Phelps had two vessels in charge—the Juiet and Champion-which he wished to get through safely. He kept them out of range until he could partially repair the Juliet, and then starting under a heavy fire he made a push by. Unfortunately the pump boat was disabled and set fire to and burnt up. The Hindman had her wheel ropes cut away, and drifted past turning round and round, and getting well cut up in going by. The Juliet was cut to pieces in hull and machinery, had fifteen killed and wounded. Four miles below they met the Masho going up, too late to cover them. Had she arrived in time she could likely have cleaned out the batteries, at least diverted the fire of them until the passage of the boats.

I enclose the report of Lieut. Comd'g. Phelps from the time of his first misfortune until his arrival at this place, where I now am with all the fleet, having lost none of the gunboats, but very much surprised that I have any left,

onsidering the difficulties encountered.

When the rebels had followed our army to the point where they could effect no more, all their attention was turned to the little squadron I had escorting the Eastport. Every man and gun was brought to the river, and we had to contend against such odds that it seemed impossible to escape destruction or very severe handling. No vessels ever better fought, and none of this class (mere thread paper vessels) were ever under so hot a fire. In five minut s the Cricket was struck thirty-eight times with solid shot and shell, with a loss of twenty-three killed and wounded—half her crew. The Juliet about the same with fifteen killed and wounded. The Hindman lost three killed and four or five wounded.

I may have lacked judgment in not blowing the East pert up sooner, when I found that we were a secondary consideration to the army, but as I had staid behind m self to see the last transport through safely, I could not do up communication with the army; as the means of comnunication were with them, and as they marched along supposed they would only go twenty.) I was further in their rear than I should have been. This arose from my desire to save the Eastport, and hoping that some signal success on the part of the army (which I felt confident was able to whip all the rebels in that part of the country) would dispose of the enemy altogether. From the beginning of this expedition up to the present

time, the officers and men of this squadron have worked with supernuman zeal, and overcome difficulties which seemed insurmountable. The success of the expedition lepended entirely on the success of the navy in getting the transports safely to an appointed place, Springfield Landing, which would have put us in communication with the army and then in possession of all their materials of war. This we accomplished, and when the army returned, unexpectedly, we fought our way back again without loss of any kind, (excepting men,) inflicting a loss of five hundred my, killed their best General, (Green,) and number of his officers.

On our way down to Alexandria obstacles were overome enough to appall the stoutest heart. Guns had to be aken out of vessels and then jumped over sand-bars and ogs, and the squadron arrived here in time to prevent any ttack on our reserve stores. The difficulty about water is a most unusual one, and we

nust certainly have a rise of the few feet we want before the end of the season. All the rivers are booming at this time, and it should be so here. I am no more responsible for the failure of water here than I would be if the Missis. sipp: went dry at this season—a thing that never happened yet. I came up here with the river on the rise, and water shough for our largest vessels; and even on my way up to Shreveport from Grand Ecore the water rose, while menced falling where I left the largest gunboats. Falling or not, I could not go back while in charge of the transports and the material on which an army of thirty thousand men depended. Nothing would justify me in doing so. I have still confidence in a good Providence, which I am sure will not desert us, and confidence that the nation will not permit this fleet to be sacrificed when it has so ell performed its part in what should

In conclusion I beg leave to mention the brave, cool, and zealous manner in which Lieutenant Commander Phelps worked to get his vessel out of her difficulties, never losing his faith for a single moment; also, the handome manner in which he brought the two fragile gunboats past those batteries, cheating the enemy of the prize they had promised themselves. To Acting Volunteer Lieut. John Pearce, commanding the Fort Hindman, great praise is due for the efforts he made night and day to get the Eastport off, working his officers and men until they could ardly stand. Acting Master Geo. W. Rogers, of the Pittsburg, deserves great credit for the manner in which e worked at the bulkheads of the Eastport up to his middle in water for eight days; to him we entrusted the duty of stopping the leak, which he fairly accomplished under the most trying circumstances. Acting Master J. S. Watson defended his vessel in the most gallant manner,

od never was a vessel more cut up.
Where all do their duty it is hard to discriminate; but when the record of this expedition is overhauled, the names of Commander R. Townsend, commanding Essex; Lieuenant Commander J. L. Phelps, Eastport; Lieutenan Commander Watson Smith, Chillicothe, (temporarily;) Lieutenant Commander K. R. Breese, Black Hawk; Lieu enant Commander J P. Foster, Lafayette; Lieutenant ommander J. S. Greer, Benton; Lieutenaut Commande E. K. Owen, Louisville; Lieutenant Commander J. G. Mitchell, Catondelet; Lieutenant Commander F. M. Ramey, Choctew; Lieutenant Commander T. O. Selfridge lange : Lieutenant Commander Byron Wilson, Ouichita Lieutenant Commander George M. Bach., Lexington; Lieutenant Commander, S. W. Terry, Benefit, (naval transport;) Acting Volunteer Lieutenant W. R. Hoel, Pittsburg; Assistant Volunteer Lieutenant Samuel Howrd, Neosho; Acting Volunteer Lieutenant George W. Browne, Ozark ; Acting Volunteer Lieutenant A. R. Larg thorne, Mound City; Assistant Volunteer Lieutenant Joh Pearce, Fort Hindman; Acting Master H. H. Garringe, Cricket; Assistant Master J. S. Watson, Juliet; Acting Master Charles Thatcher, Gazelle; should stand promineat, having zealously performed every thing required of them with an ability deserving of the highest praise. I deem it necessary to send you a bearer of despatches,

who will explain to you fully the condition of the fleet. I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant, DAVID PORTER, Rear Admiral.

OFFICIAL.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE PRESIDENT. EXECUTIVE MANSION, WASHINGTON, MAY 9TH, 1864.

To the Friends of Union and Liberty:

Enough is known of army operations within the last five days to claim our especial gratitude to God; while what remains undone demands our most sincere prayers to and reliance upon Him, without whom all human effort is vain. I recommend that all patriots, at their homes, in their

NON-RESIDENCE AND THE DRAFT. Hon. WM. WHITING, Solicitor of the War Department has given an opinion that when a person who has been drafted claims exemption on account of non-residence he

nust prove the following points: 1st. His non-residence in the district where he claims exemption at the time of his enrolment therein. What his place of actual residence was at the time when the enrolment therein was made 3d. That he was or is actually enrolled, and has been drafted, or is liable to draft, in his place of actual resi-

All persons are liable to enrolment and draft in some district, and errors in spelling the names, or mistakes in noting the occupation or residence of those liable to military duty, will not entitle them to exemption from draft.

THE FORT PILLOW MASSACRE.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE CON-DUCT OF THE WAR.

The Joint Committee on the Conduct and Expenditures of the War, to whom was referred the resolution of Con gress instructing them to investigate the late massacre at Fort Pillow, submitted a report to both Houses on Thursday last. The committee state that in the execution of the said resolution they designated two members of the committee (Messra. WADE and GOOCH) to proceed forthwith to such places as they might deem necessary and take testimony, and that this sub committee, having discharged that duty, returned to this city and submitted to the joint committee a report, with accompanying papers and testimony. The said report was adopted by the joint committee, whose chairman was instructed to submit the same with the test mony to Congress. The following is the report:

REPORT OF SUB-COMMITTEE. Messrs. Wade and Gooch, the sub-committee appointed by the Joint Committee on the Conduct and Expenditures of the War, with instructions to proceed to suc they might deem necessary for the purpose of taking testi-meny in regard to the massacre at Fort Pillow, submitted the following report to the joint committee, together with

the accompanying testimony and papers:

In obedience to the instructions of this joint committee, adopted on the 18th ultimo, your committee left Washington on the morning of the 19th, taking with them the stenographer of this committee, and proceeded to Cairo and Mound City, Illinois; Columbus, Kentucky, and Fort Pil-low and Memphis, Tennessee, at each of which places they proceeded to take testimony.

Although your committee were instructed to inquire

ence to the attack, capture, and massacre a Fort Pillow, they have deemed it proper to take some testimony in reference to the operations of Forrest and his command, immediately preceding and subsequent to that horrible transaction. It will appear, from the testimony thus taken, that the atrocities committed at Fort Pillov were not the result of passions excited by the heat of conflict, but were results of a policy deliberately decided upon, and unhesitatingly announced. Even if the uncertainty of the fate of those officers and men belonging to colored re-giments who have heretofore been taken prisoners by the rebels has failed to convince the authorities of our Gevernment of this fact, the testimony herewith submitted must the rebel authorities not to recognise the officers and men of our colored regiments as entitled to the treatment accorded by all civilized nations to prisoners of war. The declarations of Forrest and his officers, both before and after the capture of Fort Pillow, as testified to by such of our men as bave escaped after being taken by him; the threats contained in the various demands for surrender made at Paducah, Columbus, and other places; the renewal of the massacre the morning after the capture of Fort Pillow; the statements made by the rebel officers to the officers of -w-all of this proves most conclusively the policy they have determined to adopt.

The first operation of any importance was the attack

upon Union City, Tennessee, by a portion of Forrest's command. The attack was made on the 24th of March. The post was occupied by a force of about five hundred under Col. Hawkins, of the Seventh Tennessee Union cavalry. The attacking force was superior in numbers the particulars of the attack, and the circumstances at tending the surrender, your committee would refer to the tostimony submitted. They would state, however, that it would appear from the testimony that the surrender was opposed by nearly if not quite all the officers of Col. Haw-kins's command. Your committee think that the circumstances connected with the surrender are such that they demand the most searching investigation by the military authorities, as at the time of the surrender but one man on our side had been injured.

On the 25th of March the enemy, under the rebel Gene rals Forrest, Buford, Harris, and Thompson, estimated at over six thousand men, made an attack on Paducah, Kenucky, which post was occupied by Col. S. G. Hicks, 40th Illinois Regiment, with six hundred and fifty-five men. Our forces retired into Fort Anderson, and there made their stand, assisted by some gunboats belonging to the command of Capt. Shirk, of the navy, successfully repelling the attacks of the enemy. Failing to make any im-pression upon our forces; Forrest then demanded an unconditional surrender, closing his communication to Col. Hicks in these words; "If you surrender you shall be treated as prisoners of war. But if I have to storm your works you may expect no quarter." This demand and surrender, he stating that he had been placed there by his Government to defend that post, and he should do so. The rebels made three other assault: that same day, but vere repulsed with heavy loss each time—the rebel General Thompson being killed in the last assault. The enemy at day, having suffered a loss estimated at three hundred killed and from one thousand to twelve hundred wounded. The loss on our side was fourteen killed and forty-six wounded

operations of the enemy at Paducah were characterized by the same bad faith and treachery that seems to have become the settled policy of Forrest and his command. The flag of truce was taken advantage of there as elsewhere to secure desirable positions which the rebels were unable to obtain by fair and honorable means; and also to but they had merely thrown them, without the least reas Government property At Paducah the rebels were guilty of acts more cowardly, if possible, than any they have practised elsewhere. When the attack was made the officers of the fort and of the gunboats advised the women and children to go to the river for the purpose of being taken across out of danger. As they were leaving the town for that purpose the rebel sharpshooters mingled with them, and, shielded by their presence, advanced and fired upon the gunboats, wounding some of the officers and men. Our forces could not return the fire without endangering the lives of the women and children. The rebels also placed women is front of their lines as they moved on the fort, or were proceeding to take positions, while the flag of truce was at the fort, in order to compel our men to withhold their fire, out of regard for the lives of the women who were made use of in this most cowardly manner. For more full details of the attack, and the treacherous cowardly practice of the rebels there, your committee refer

o the testimony herewith submitted.

On the 13th of April, the day after the capture of Fort Pillow, the rebel Gen. Buford appeared before Columbus. Kentucky, and demanded its unconditional surrender. He coupled with that demand a threat that if the place was not surrendered, and he should be compelled to attack it, "no quarter whatever should be shown to negro troops."

To this Col. Lawrence, in command of the fort, replied that "surrender was out of the question, as he had been placed there by his Government to hold and defend the place, and should do so." No attack was made, but the enemy retired, having taken advantage of the flag of truce to take some horses of Union citizens, which had been

brought in there for security.

It was at Fort Pillow, however, that the brutality and cruelty of the rebels were most fearfully exhibited. The garrison there, according to the last returns received at headquarters, amounted to nineteen officers and five hundred and thirty eight enlisted men, of whom two bundred and sixty two men were colored troops, comprising one battaion of the 6th United States heavy artillery (formerly the 1st Alabama artillery) of colored troops, under com-mand of Major W. J. Booth; one section of the 2d United States light artillery, colored, and one battalion of the 13th Tennessee cavalry, white, commanded by Major W F Bradford. Major Booth was the ranking officer, and was

on ecommand of the fort.
On Monday, the 12th of April, the anniversary of the attack on Fort Sumter, in April, 1861, the pickets of the garrison were driven in just before suprise; that being the saint intimation our forces then had of any intention on the part of the enemy to attack that place. Fighting soon became general; and, about nine o'clock, Major Booth was killed. Major Bradford succeeded to the command and withdrew all the forces within the fort. They had

previously occupied some entrenchments at some distance from the fort, and further from the river. This fort was situated on a high bluff, which descended precipitately to the river's edge, the ridge of the bluff on the river side being covered with trees, bushes, and fallen timber. Extending back from the river, on either side of the fort, was a ravine or hollow, the one below the fort containing several private stores and some dwellings, constituting what was called the town. At the mouth of that and on the river bank, were some Government buildings containing commissary stores. The ravine above the fort was known as Cold Creek ravine, the ridge being covered with trees and bushes. To the right, or below, and a little to the front of the fort, was a level piece of places of public worship, and wherever they may
be, unite in common thanksgiving and prayer to
Almighty God.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

ABRAHAM LINCOLN. six-pounders, two twelve pound howitzers, and two ten-

pounder parrots.

The rebels continued their attack, but up to two or three o'clock in the afternoon they had not gained any decisive success. Our troops—both white and black—fought most bravely, and were in good spirits. The gunboat No. 7, New Era, Capt. Marshall, took part in the conflict, shelling the enemy as opportunity offered. Signals had been agreed upon by which the officers in the fort could indicate where the guns of the fort could be most effective. There being but one gunboat there, no permanent impression appears to have been produced upon the enemy; for as they were shelled out of one ravine they would make their appearance in the other. They would thus appear and retire as the gunboat moved from one point to the other. About one o clock the fire on both sides slackened some-About one o'clock the fire on both sides slackened somewhat, and the gunboat moved out of the river to clean and cool the guns, having fired two hundred and eighty-two rounds of shell, schrappel, and canister, which nearly exhausted the supply of ammunition.

minutes in which to move his troops out of the fort, and if it was not done within that time an assault would be

rdered. To this Major Bradford returned the reply that ordered. To this Msjor Bradford returned the reply that he would not surreader.

During the time these flags of truce were flying the rebels were moving down the ravines and taking positions from which the more readily to charge upon the fort. Parties of them were also engaged in plundering the Government buildings and commissery and quartermaster's stores in full view of the gunboat. Captain Marshall states that he refrained from firing upon the rebels, although they were thus violating the flag of truce, for fear that should they finally succeed in capturing the fort they would justify any atrocities they might commit by saying that they were in retaliation for his firing while the flag of truce was flying. He says, however, that when he saw the rebels coming down the ravine, above the fort, and taking positions there, he got under way and stood for the fort. I ions there, he got under way and stood for the fort.

tions there, he got under way and stood for the fort. I determined to use what little ammunition we had left in shelling them out of the ravine; but he did not get up within effective range before the final assault was made. Immediately after the second flag of truce retired, the rebels made a rush from the positions they had so treach erously gained, and obtained possession of the fort, raising the cry of "no quarter." But little opportunity was allowed for resistance. Our troops, black and white, threw down their arms, and sought to escape by running down the steep bluff near the fort, and secreting themselves behind trees and loss in the bushes and under the brush. hind trees and logs, in the bushes, and under the brush some even jumping that the river, leaving only their heads above the water, as they crouched down under the bank.

Then followed a scene of cruelty and murder withou parallel in civilized warfare, which needed but the toma hawk and scalping-knife to exceed the worst atrocities over committed by savages. The rebels commenced an indiscriminate slaughter, sparing neither age nor sex, white or black, soldier or civilian. The officers and men seemed women, and even children, wherever found, were deliber ately shot down, beaten, and hacked with sabres. of the children, not more than ten years old, were force to stand up and face their murderers while being shot The sick and wounded were butchered without mercy, the rebels even entering the hospital building and dragging them out to be shot, or killing them as they lay there unable to offer the least resistance. All over the hill side the work of murder was going on. Numbers of our men were collected together in lines or groups and deliberately shot. Some were shot while in the right with substitution of the state of the stat shot. Some were shot while in the river, while others or the bank were shot and their bodies kicked into the water many of them still living, but unable to make any exer many of them still living, but unable to make any exer-tions to save themselves from drowning. Some of the rebels stood upon the top of the hill, or a short distance down its side, and called to our soldiers to come up to them, and as they approached shot them down in cold blood; if their guns or pistols missed fire, forcing them to stand there until they were again prepared to fire. All around were heard crics of 'no quarter, no quarter; kill the d—d niggers, shoot them down" All who asked for mercy were answered by the most cruel taunts and sneers. Some were spared far a time, only to be murdered under

Some were spared far a time, only to be murdered under circumstances of greater cruelty. No cruelty which the most fiendish malignity could devise was omitted by these nurderers. One white suldier, who was wounded in one leg so as to be unable to walk, was made to stand up while his tormentors shot him. Others, who were wounds unable to stand up, were held up and again shot. negro, who had been ordered by a rebel officer to hold his horse, was killed by him when he remonstrated. Another, a mere child, whom an officer had taken up behind him on his horse, was seen by Chalmers, who at once ordered the officer to put him down and shoot him, which was done. The buls and tents in which many of the remodel of the condensation. of the wounded had sought shelter were set on fire, both that night and the next m raing, while the wounded were still in them, those only escaping who were able to get themselves out, or who could prevail on others less injured than themselves to help them out, and even some of these thus seeking to escape flames were met by these ruffians and brutally shot down or had their brains beaten out. One man was deliberately fastened down to the floor of a tent, face upwards, by means of nails driven through his clething and into the boards under him, so that he could n possibly escape, and then the tent set on fire; another was nailed to the side of a building, outside of the fort, and ther the building set on fire and burned. The charged remains much disfigured and consumed by the fismes that they could not be identified, and the identification of that one is not absolutely certain, although there can hardly be a doubt that it was the body of Lieut. Akerstoom, quartermaster of the 13th Virginia cavalry, and a native Tennesseas Several witnesses who saw the remains, and were person ally acquainted with him while living, have testified that i is their firm belief that it was his body that was thus treated These deeds of murder and cruelty closed when night camon, only to be renewed the next morning, when the demon carefully sought among the dead lying about in all direc tions for any other wounded yet alive, and those they found

Scores of the dead and wounded were found there the day of the massacre by the men from some of our gunboats, who were permitted to go on shore and collect the wounded and bury the dead. The rebels themselves had made a pretence of burying a great many of their victims about the fort or the little hollows and ravines on the hill side, covering them but partially with earth. Portions of heads and faces, hands and feet, were found protruding through the earth in every direction; and even when your committee visited the spot, two weeks afterwards, al though parties of men had been sent on shore from time t time to bury the bodies unburied and rebury the others and were then engaged in the same work, we found the evidences of this murder and cruelty stil. most painfully. We saw hodies still unburied, (at some distance from the fort.) of some sick men who had been met fleeing from the hospital and beaten down and brutally murdered, and their bodies left where they had fallen. We could still see the faces and hands and feet of men, white and black, protruding out of the ground, whose graves had not been reached by those engaged in reinterring the victims of the massacre; and, although a great deal of rain had fallen within the procedure of the proce within the preceding two weeks, the ground, more espe-cially on the side and at the foot of the bluff, where most of the murders had been committed, was still discolored by the blood of our brave but unfortunate men, and the logs and trees showed but too plainly the evidences of the

strocities perpetrated there. Many other instances of equally atrocious cruelty might be enumerated, but your committee feel compelled to re-frain from giving here more of the heart sickening details, and refer to the statements contained in the voluminous testimony herewith submitted. Those statements were obtained by them from eye-witnesses and sufferers. Many of them, as they were examined by your committee, wer lying upon beds of pain and suffering; some so feeble that their lips could with difficulty frame the words by which they endeavored to convey some idea of the cruelties which had been inflicted on them, and which they had seen

inflicted on others.

In reference to the fate of Major Bradford, who was in In reference to the fate of Major Hradford, who was in command of the fort when it was captured, and who had up to that time received no injury, there seems to be no doubt. The general understanding seems to be that he had been brutally murdered the day after he was taken prisoner. How many of our troops thus fell victims to the malignity and barbarity of Forrest and his followers cannot yet be definitely ascertained. Two officers belongting to the restriction were absent at the time of the capture ing to the garrison were absent at the time of the capture and massacre. Of the remaining officers but two are and massacre. Of the remaining officers but two are known to be living, and they are wounded now in the hospital at Mound City; one of them, Capt, Porter, may even now be dead, as the surgeons, when your committee were there, expressed no hope of his recovery. Of the men, from three hundred to four hundred are known to have been killed at Fort Pillow, of whom at least three hundred were murdered in cold blood after the fort was in possession of the rebels, and our men had thrown down their arms and ceased to offer resistance. Of the survive possession of the repets, and our men and thrown down their arms and ceased to offer resistance. Of the surviv-ors, except the wounded in the hospital at Mound City, and the few who succeeded in making their escape un-hurt, nothing definite is known, and it is to be feared that many have been murdered after being taken away from

When your committee arrived at Memphis, Tennesse they found and examined a man, Mr. McLagen, who had been conscripted by some of Forrest's forces, but who, with other conscripts, had succeeded in making his escape. with other conscripts, had succeeded in making his escape. He testifies that while two companies of rebel troops, with Major Bradford and many other prisoners, were on the march from Brownsville to Jackson, Pennessee, Major Bradford was taken by five rebels, one an officer, led about fifty yards from the line of march, and deliberately murdered, in view of all there assembled. He fell, killed instantly by three musket balls, even while asking that his life might be spared, as he had fought them manfully and was deserving of a better fate. The motive for the murder of Major Bradford seems to have been the simple fact that, although a native of the South, he remained loyal to his Government. The testimony herewith submitted son. his Government. The testimony herewith submitted contains many statements made by the rebeis that they did

tains many statements made by the rebals that they did not intend to treat "home-made Yankees," as they termed loyal Southerners, any better than negro troops.

There is one circumstance connected with the events herein narrated which your committee eanuot permit to pass unnoticed. The testimony herewith submitted discloses this most astounding and shameful fact: On the morning of the day succeeding the capture of Fort Pillow, the gunboat Silver Cloud, (No. 28.) the transport Platte Valley, and the gunboat New Era, (No. 7.) landed at Fort Pillow under flag-of-truce, for the purpose of receiving the few wounded there, and burying the dead. While; they were lying there, the rebel Gen. Chaimers, and other rebel officers, came down to the landing, and some of them went on the boats. Notwithstanding the evidences of rewent on the boats. Notwithstanding the evidences of re-bel atrocity and barbarity with which the ground was cov-ered, there were some of our army officers on board the Platte Valley so lost to every feeling of decency, honor,

The rebels, having thus far falled in their attack, now resorted to their outcomer fags of truce. The first flag of truce conveyed a demand from Forrest for the unconditional surrender of the fort. To this Major Bradford replied, asking to be allowed one hour to consult with his officers and officers of the gunboat. In a short time a second flag of truce appeared, with a communication from Forrest that he would allow Major Bradford twenty that every effort will be made to ascertain their names and bring them to the punishment they so richly merit. bring them to the punishment they so richly merit.

In relation to the reinforcement or evacuation of Fort
Pillow it would appear that the troops there stationed
were withdrawn on the 26th of January last, in order to
accompany the Meridian expedition under Gen. Sherman. Gen. Hurlburt testifies that he never received any instruc-tions to permanently vacate the post, and deeming it im-portant to occupy it, so that the rebels should not interrupt the navigation of the Mississippi by planting artiller there, he sent some troops there about the middle of Fet

ruary, increasing their number afterwards until the garri

on amounted to nearly six hundred men. He also states

that as soon as he learned that the place was attacked, he immediately took measures to send up reinforcements from Memphis, and they were actually embarking when he received information of the capture of the fort.

Your committee cannot close this report without expressing their obligations to the officers of the army, and many with whom they were brought in contact, for the assistance that rendered. assistance they rendered. It is true your committee were furnished by the Secretary of War with the fullest authority to call upon any one in the army for such services at they might require to enable them to make the investigation devolved upon them by Congress. But they found that no such authority was needed. The army and navy officers at every point they visited evinced a desire to aid the committee in every way in their power, and all ex-pressed the highest satisfaction that Congress had so promptly taken steps to accertain the facts connected with this fearful and bloody transaction, and the bope that the investigation would lead to prompt and decisive measures on the part of the Government. Your committee would mention more particularly the names of Gen. Mason Brayman, military commandant at Cairo; Capt. J. H. Odlin, his chief of staff; Capt. A. M. Pennock, United Navy, fleet captain of Mississippi squadron; Capt. James W. Shirk, United States Navy, commanding seventh district Mississippi squadron; Surgeon Herace Wardner, in charge of Mound City General Hospital; Capt. Thomas M. Farrel, United States Navy, in command of gunboat Hastings, (furnished by Capt. Pennock to convey the committee to Fort Pillow and Memphis;) Capt. Thomas Pattison, naval commandant at Memphis; Gen C. C. Washburns, and the officers of their commands. burne, and the officers of their commands as among those to whom they are indebted for assistance and at

B. F. WADE, D. W. GOOCH. Adopted by the committee as their report.

B. F. WADE, Chairman

All of which to respectfully submitted.

END OF THE FLORIDA CAMPAIGN.

Correspondence of the Philadelphia Inquirer. JACKSONVILLE, (FLORIDA,) APRIL 29, 1864.

The Florida expedition is virtually ended and abandoned. The brilliant opening of the campaign in this peninsula of the Union is singularly balanced by the fruitless and barrea results at its close. We came here with great anticipations, we return with large disappointment. There were some circumstances foreshadowing success, there were many others prophetic of failure. The public have read fragmentary and crude accounts of the expedition. the Commander of the Department has issued his official bulletin, but its history is yet to be written.

We brought into the State an army entirely too small to accomplish the object intended. We laid out a campaign suitable for an army of twenty-five thousand men. Yet seven or eight-thousand were all that arrived, until the defeat at Olustee. It was supposed that a corporal's guard could overrun and conquer the State, and yet the Confederacy sent twenty thousand veteran troops for its defence. The expedition was talked of for months, and yet it was hurried off at hurricane speed, and sadly deficient in many of the appointments of an army. It was crippled before it left its base of operations: it was defi cient in medical and sanitary supplies; its ambulance trian was entirely inadequate for the sick, to say nothing of the wounded after a second engagement. When it moved it was compelled to take its base along with it, because its force was too small to be divided. Transportation for commissary and forage stores and ammunition was pre-carious; yet the invading army pushed into the interior, subsisting on half-starved beef cattle, a dozen of which

would not make a pot of soup.

In stating that the expedition is abandoned I do not mesn that our forces are wholly withdrawn from the State. Jacksonville is held, and a force of white and black troops, about equally divided, occupy the fortifications pro-tecting the town. But these forces will simply do garrison South permits no other course, and as the Confederate army in our front is also largely reduced we anticipate a season of lethargy and quiet for the present. Florids had no stragetic value or importance, and without a surplus of troops it would be absurd to attempt the offensive.

Deserters that came in from the enemy's game not

say that Major Gen. Patten Anderson still commands the say that Major Gen. Patten Anderson still commands the rebel army in Florida, and that his forces are principally at Baldwin, and that they now enumerate about four thousand men. Gen. Colquett's brigade, Georgia troops, left for Virginia two weeks ago, while others have gone to Charleston and Savannah to relieve troops that are also

ordered to report at Richmond.

One of the leading objects of the expedition into this State was to secure contrabands to fill up our army, but in that respect it was almost a failure. Not more than three hundred were found that were capable of bearing arms. The previous expeditions had gone over some of the terri-tory which we explored, and the planters, on hearing of our approach, drove their slaves off to the western part of the State. In some instances we found a few at home, or hid in the cypress swamps. Generally they were aged or crippled, and consequently of little value. The slave pop-ulation is mainly in the southwest section of the State, a

part which we did not penetrate.

The chauge of commanders in this district is so rapid that The change of commanders in this district is so rapid that I have been almost unable to report them. After Gen. Seymour came Brig. Gen. John P. Hatch, who assumed command some ten days since. The staff is also changed, and now faces smile around headquarters. Judging from the rapid revolutions in this district, as regards commanders, I shall probably be introduced to a new General and his staff before closing this letter. Birney announced a determination to hold Florids at all bazards, but as he only garrisons Jacksonville I think his command is limited. Military pecessity will demand the evacuation of this site. Military necessity will demand the evacuation of this city before long. The river communication is difficult, par-ticularly on the bar at the mouth of the St. Colans; and hy-and by torpedoes will still further urge us to abandon a place of no value or importance to us or the enemy. The loss of two valuable steamers by rebel torpedos satisfies me that their infernal machines are well made, and are of

REBEL NEWS OF GRANT'S MOVEMENT.

It appears by the Richmond papers of the 4th instant that the Confederate authorities at Richmond were promptly informed of Gen. Grant's movement. The Examiner of that date save :

terrible destructive capacity.

"A despatch from Orange Court-House reporte Grant's "A despatch from Orange Court-House reports Grant's army to have struck tents and to have commenced movement. Private advices from trustworthy sources say that our men were never in better spirits and condition, or better prepared for the atruggle. Before many days more—even before the setting of to-day's sun—we may hear that the great battle has begun; and when we recollect that it is Lee's army of veterans—men who have faced battle on a dozen fields—we can have no doubt of the result." the result.

The same paper has the following despatch respecting Gen. Burnside's corps :

FREDERICKSBURG, MAY 3, 1864. Burnside's whole corps, excepting the negro brigade, has passed to the front, crossing the river at Rappahan-nock Station yesterday. The negro brigade of his command has been placed on guard over the Orange and Alexandria railroad, from Manassas Junction to Alexandria relieving the white troops who have hereforce performed that duty. These white troops have also gone to the front. The Yankees are swiftly perfecting the preliminaries of battle, and the struggle cannot be deferred many days. Their cavalry made reconnoissances to Falmouth last night and the night preceding, and their videttes on the Stafford hills were distant spectators of the tournament which came off here on yesterday.

MARINE LOSSES FOR APRIL.

The monthly table of marine losses for the past month shows an aggregate of sixty two vessels. Of this number five were ships, eleven were barques, ten were brigs, twenty-four were schooners, one was a steamship, and one a steamer. Of the above seven were abandoned, one foundered, two sunk after collision, and nine are missing, supposed lost. The total value of the property lost and missing is estimated at two million one hundred and ninety thousand five hundred and fifty thousand.

Ves els. Value. me period for last year.....179